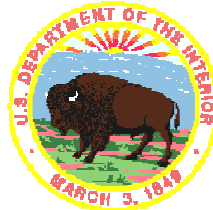




BLM News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior
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National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
P.O. Box 987, Baker City, Oregon 97814
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Interpretive Center Scheduled to Reopen to the Public

Baker, OR—The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is scheduled to reopen to the public at 9:00 AM, Thursday, March 1, 2001. The Center, at the top of Flagstaff Hill, is undergoing a major structural retrofit needed to provide additional support to withstand the prolonged onslaught of the wind.

“It has been a challenge to continue working while the renovation has been going on,” said Priscila Franco, Chief of Interpretation & Visitor Services. “We’re very excited to reopen our doors and return to business as usual.”

Visitors coming to the center in March will find no major changes in the appearance of the building. Although not every exhibit element will be reinstalled and ready for the reopening, the experience will still be enlightening, enjoyable, and safe. Admission fees will be reduced to \$1.00 per person throughout the month of March. The Center’s hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

“The major work inside the building will be completed in time for the reopening,” said Vern Pritchard, lead engineer for the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management. “There may be some small projects that need to be finished, but they should not detract from the Center’s dramatic displays. Renovation will continue outside the building through the summer. The entire project is expected to be completed by fall of 2001.”

A reopening celebration will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2001 to kick off another great season. Joyce Badgley Hunsaker will be performing as one of the Center’s favorite living history characters, “Fanny”, at 11:30 AM.

Sunday, April 1st will be the first of the monthly “Visitor Appreciation Days” when there is no admission fee. Also, that day the Center will resume extended hours for the summer season, from 9:00AM to 6:00PM. On April 2nd, the fee schedule will return to normal: \$5.00 for adults, \$3.50 for seniors & youth--or \$10.00 per vehicle, whichever is less, while children under the age of 6 and school groups are free.

Open seven days a week, the Center is located about six miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. To receive more information about the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center visit the website at www.or.blm.gov/NHOTIC or call (541)523-1845.

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